



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Len Peters, Secretary**

**CONTACT: Corey Ann Howard  
502-564-2141**

### **Division of Abandoned Mine Lands Director Steve Hohmann receives Stan Barnard Memorial Award** *Award is highest honor of national program*

FRANKFORT, KY (Oct. 7, 2009) – Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Director Steve Hohmann is the recipient of the Stan Barnard Memorial Award, the highest honor of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAMLPL).

The award is presented in memory of Stan Barnard and is bestowed upon individuals who exhibit Barnard's qualities of outstanding dedication, commitment and hard work toward the enhancement of the association. Hohmann received the award at the 2009 NAAMLPL Annual Conference held Sept. 27-30 in Rogers, Ark.

"It has been most gratifying and humbling to receive recognition from my peers. I am very proud of our Kentucky AML staff. This award belongs to all of us," said Hohmann.

As the division's director for the past 14 years, Hohmann has led Kentucky's program to receive two national awards for reclamation excellence for Pleasant View Mine in Hopkins County and Spewing Camp Branch Refuse in Floyd County. He has worked diligently to promote various issues pertaining to AML, particularly having testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources in favor of reauthorizing the national AML program.

In 2006, he watched his vision become reality when amendments to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 were passed and program funding was renewed. Hohmann also recently received a Commonwealth of Kentucky legislative citation for his achievement.

"I have known Steve for many years, and I know firsthand what a tireless worker he is on behalf of AML," said Kentucky House of Representatives Majority Leader Rocky Adkins. "Steve runs his division like a true professional and treats legislators, contractors and my constituents with the utmost respect. It's gratifying to see his

hard work and years of service to state government so richly rewarded by his own peers, and I congratulate him on this outstanding accomplishment.”

Department for Natural Resources Commissioner Carl Campbell said, “The citizens of Kentucky are blessed to have an individual with such a caring attitude and strong vision for the program’s future working on their behalf. Steve is a true leader.”

The Division of Abandoned Mine Lands works throughout the coalfields of Kentucky to protect the public from health and safety hazards caused by mining that occurred prior to 1982. The AML program is a 100-percent federally funded, state-implemented program. Annually, the Commonwealth of Kentucky receives an Abandoned Mine Land Grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. AML expends funds from the grant to construct reclamation projects and to fund the division’s administrative expenses.

##